

**Wellesley Public Schools  
School Committee Meeting  
January 30, 2018  
Great Hall, Town Hall**

The Open Session meeting of the School Committee convened at 6:30 pm. Those present included Committee Chair Michael D’Ortenzio Jr., Vice Chair Matt Kelley, Secretary Melissa Martin, and members Tony Bent and Sharon Gray; Superintendent David Lussier, Assistant Superintendents Judy Belliveau and Joan Dabrowski, and Student Advisory member Kate Dario. Mr. D’Ortenzio Jr. announced that the meeting is being recorded by local media.

**CITIZEN SPEAK**

No one present wished to speak.

**RECOGNITIONS**

Dr. Lussier acknowledged the following individuals and groups:

From Student Services Director Lori Cimen: Thank you to Student Services Administrative Assistant **Tricia Simeone** and Accounting Coordinator **Amy Mistrot** who went above and beyond to assist the Student Services Department in successfully completing both the Coordinated Program Review and Circuit Breaker Audit within a week’s time. Both activities required a significant amount of department time and their behind-the-scenes organization and collaboration in preparing documents and files, while scheduling the many moving pieces, made both events seamless.

From Hunnewell Principal Ellen Quirk: Thank you to Hunnewell’s International Committee members **Mish Michaels, Jill Maher, and Lesley Prowda**, who organized Hunnewell’s second International Night, and to the **World of Wellesley** for sponsoring this event with the PTO.

From Performing Arts Director Mike LaCava: Congratulations to the **students** from the **Wellesley High School Music Department** who recently auditioned for the All-State Music Ensembles. Students qualified for these auditions by scoring in the top half of the Eastern District Auditions held in November. The musicians auditioned with approximately 950 students from across Massachusetts for one of the positions in the All-State ensembles. This year, 10 students from Wellesley High School were selected to participate based on their audition. Being a member of these ensembles is the highest honor for a high school music student in Massachusetts.

Congratulations to all of the students involved and also to the faculty members who assisted the students in preparing for these auditions: **Kevin McDonald, Choir; Steve Scott, Band and Sergey Khanukaev, Orchestra**

From K-5 Science & Social Studies Coordinator Carolyn Collins: Thank you to **Beth Anne Willett and Katey Goehringer**, both members of the WEF STEM Committee, who led a dedicated group of parents in hand-making over 200 Earth models. These models are used in the new 5th Grade “Earth & Space Science” unit. After observing and discussing changes in the length and direction of shadows over the course of a

day, students go on to graph the length of daylight in 7 locations across the globe. Using the graphs and these Earth models, students engage in the practice of scientific modeling to develop a hypothesis to explain why changes to the hours of daylight become more and more dramatic further away from the equator.

This represents a tremendous amount of work and we are deeply appreciative of the efforts and commitment of Wellesley parents to partner with us in ensuring the success of our students and our schools.

Congratulations to long time WHS educator, **Rita Bourne**, who is retiring after a remarkable 30-year career in the Wellesley Public Schools.

Welcome back to Assistant Superintendent Joan Dabrowski!

### **SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Ms. Martin reported the League of Women Voters is planning another ***Meet the Boards evening*** some time in March. This will be in lieu of the Committee's March's office hour session.

Mr. D'Ortenzio Jr. announced that the NRC voted unanimously to support the **Track and Field Phase II Project**.

Dr. Bent congratulated **Jeff Riley** on his appointment as Commissioner of Education for Massachusetts.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Lussier reminded the community that the first **Kindergarten Roundup** is scheduled for tomorrow, from 3 to 6 pm, in the Sprague Library. He thanked Mr. D'Ortenzio Jr. for his leadership on the **Track and Field Project** and for continuing to navigate this process.

### **STUDENT ADVISORY**

Ms. Dario reported Student Congress met recently and discussed the **parking and drop-off** situation at the high school. There are a number of issues, but it was the consensus that changes are needed. **Senior project** proposals are due on Friday.

### **METROWEST ADOLESCENT HEALTH SURVEY (MWAHS) ANALYSIS: WHS**

The Committee was joined by High School Principal Jamie Chisum, K-12 Director of Fitness and Health Joanne Grant and Data Coordinator Karen Archambault who presented the 2016 MetroWest Adolescent Health Survey results for the High School, shared an overview of the data specifically in the areas of substance use, bullying, mental health, school attachment and adult support. Ninety-three percent of students participated in the survey. Areas that showed improvement include a decrease in cigarette smoking, alcohol use, and school bullying. Areas needing additional analysis and attention are cyberbullying, stress which increases over the High School grades and is more pronounced in girls, and mental health including school-based and social stresses.

Questions were raised relative to the gender disparity on stress levels where girls stress levels are significantly higher than boys, varying participation rates, and next steps to address areas that need additional attention.

The Committee thanked Dr. Chisum, Ms. Grant and Ms. Archambault for their presentation, and indicated it was pleased to hear that this survey will continue beyond the initial 10 year pilot period.

#### **ESTABLISHMENT OF TAFFY ZIMBLER MEMORIAL FUND**

Ms. Belliveau explained that Taffy Zimble was a high school student who passed away many years ago and a memorial trust fund was established in her name. This fund was privately managed but had the Town's tax identification number attached to it. Recently, the Town Treasurer has been working with the individuals who have been managing this fund, including Jean Goddard, who is a retired WHS English teacher, to create the trust under the School Department/Committee. The process requires the Committee to vote on the acceptance of the funds (\$15,451.26) as a gift. The use of funds is flexible and will support the High School English Department.

Ms. Goddard joined the Committee to talk about Taffy Zimble, who was a student of Ms. Goddard's, and the history and importance of the fund that will support literary ventures, books, films and conferences for the WHS English Department.

After a brief discussion, upon a motion made by Mr. Kelley and seconded by Ms. Gray, the Committee ***unanimously VOTED*** to accept the gift to be deposited into an expandable trust to be known as the Taffy Zimble Memorial Fund for the purpose of the enhancement of learning in the English Department, with emphasis when possible on the works of William Shakespeare.

#### **FY19 BUDGET**

Dr. Lussier acknowledged the minor adjustment made to the substitutes budget estimate to reach the 3.50 percent increase, from 3.51 percent. The sheet was updated to reflect this change.

Dr. Lussier noted that Governor Baker has added \$10 million for Circuit Breaker funding in his budget proposal, which is a positive sign and further underscores the Committee's decision to include a 73 percent reimbursement assumption for Circuit Breaker in the FY19 budget proposal.

The Committee reviewed some of the significant items that are included in this budget proposal including the further expansion of the World Language Program, additional supports to WMS and WHS students, keeping the 8:30 am WHS bus, eliminating fees for Key Club, National Honor Society and other service-related activities, and inclusion of additional science sections at the high school. Dr. Lussier and his team was complimented for their work in preparation of this budget.

After a brief discussion, upon a motion made by Ms. Martin and seconded by Mr. Kelley, the Committee ***unanimously VOTED*** to approve an FY19 operating budget of

\$74,468,918, inclusive of estimated benefit costs, to send to Town Meeting. Said budget represents a 3.5 percent increase over the FY18 operating budget.

After a brief discussion, upon a motion made by Ms. Martin and seconded by Mr. Kelley, the Committee ***unanimously VOTED*** to approve an FY19 cash capital budget of \$947,629, inclusive of furniture, fixtures, equipment and technology, to send to Town Meeting.

The Committee will be presenting its budget to the Advisory Committee on February 7, at which time the WMS projects will also be discussed.

### **SC POLICIES REVIEW**

Dr. Bent reviewed changes to each of the following policies:

- KF (Community use of School Facilities)
- ACE (Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability)
- BBA (School Committee Powers and Duties)
- BBBA/BBBB (School Committee Qualifications)
- BDD (Superintendent-School Committee Relationship)
- BEDA (Notification of School Committee Meetings)
- BEDH (Public Comment at School Committee Meetings)
- BHE (Use of Electronic Messaging by School Committee Members)

After discussion, policies BBA, BEDA and BHE were deferred pending further review/clarification.

### **HHU/MSBA UPDATE**

Ms. Gray reported that the SBC met on Thursday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, to discuss logistics and input on next steps on both the MSBA and Hunnewell projects processes, timing, and eligibility period. She noted that partnership with MSBA does not officially begin until April 2, which starts the eligibility period, and based on discussions with the MSBA Director of Operations, most projects take between 5 to 7 years to complete. She also confirmed that the decision on how to approach the project is not considered until after the process begins by requesting funding for Town Meeting. The Committee will be meeting with the Selectmen next week to discuss the MSBA process and next steps for both the MSBA and Hunnewell School projects. Ms. Gray also noted that although the eligibility process does not begin until April 2, work has been ongoing internally in preparation.

The Committee discussed the Hunnewell School project and the need for swing space, and the possibility of using the St. Paul's School building for this use. Ms. Gray indicated the SBC has unanimously voted to approve a work order for SMMA to assess the St. Paul School and parish center for use as swing space, for a total fee of \$9,500.

Ms. Gray also reported that the SBC is in support of moving forward to a Special Town Meeting to request funding for feasibility/schematic studies for the MSBA project. In addition, SBC felt it was valuable to proceed with the feasibility study for Hunnewell,

regardless of the timing of that project, so it would be ready when the project is ready to begin.

It was the consensus of the Committee to go forward with Work Order #9 for SMMA in the amount of \$9500 to proceed with the St. Paul's assessment work for possible swing space work.

**CITIZENS SPEAK** No one present wished to speak.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At approximately 8:05 pm, upon a motion made by Mr. Kelley and seconded by Ms. Martin, Committee ***unanimously VOTED*** to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Martin  
Secretary

**Documents and Exhibits Used:**

MetroWest Health Survey Results Presentation – WHS  
Regarding FY19 Budget Proposal for Vote  
BBA – SC Powers & Duties  
BBBA-BBBB – SC Member Qualifications, Oath of Office  
BDD – School Committee/Superintendent Relationship  
BHE – Use of Electronic Messaging by SC  
Work Order #9 – SMMA